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Letter dated 28 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 28 July 1993 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the recent violent demonstrations and acts of provocation perpetrated by Greek Cypriots in the United Nations-controlled Buffer Zone in Cyprus and at our borders, and to express the Turkish Cypriot side's indignation and concern at this new manifestation of Greek Cypriot hostility towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

As the spokesman of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in Nicosia has also reported in his relevant statement issued on 26 July 1993, several hundred Greek Cypriots, most of them on motorcycles, staged violent demonstrations at a number of locations along the Buffer Zone on 25 July 1993. Some of them broke through UNFICYP barriers and attacked UNFICYP personnel with rocks and other missiles, injuring a dozen of them and causing damage to United Nations property.

At three locations, the Greek Cypriot aggressors came within a short distance of our borders, and at "Dherinia", where they were joined by other groups bringing their number to about 2,000, they attacked members of the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces with rocks, "Molotov cocktails" and similar other missiles, at the same time hurling insults at them. As a result, no fewer than 26 members of our Security Forces suffered injuries, and damage was caused to property. The perpetrators also set part of the Buffer Zone on fire.

The demonstrations were reported to have been organized by "LOGOS" radio and television, an organ of the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus, which is known for its militant, anti-Turkish stance, and by a Greek Cypriot youth organization. However, in view of the fact that such acts of provocation are generally encouraged and supported by the Greek Cypriot authorities as a matter of policy, in order to create artificial tension in the island and keep the Cyprus issue high on the agenda of the international community, there can be no doubt that the recent incidents also had the blessing of the Greek Cypriot Administration.

The well-planned and organized nature of the incidents, the failure of the Greek Cypriot police to stop them and their refusal to cooperate with UNFICYP in containing the aggressive behaviour of the demonstrators testify to the above. This is also borne out by the UNFICYP spokesman's above-mentioned statement, in which it is stated that "the maintenance of the integrity of the Buffer Zone is the responsibility of UNFICYP alone. It requires also the full cooperation of the public at large and especially of the police authorities. Such cooperation was clearly lacking yesterday".

By contrast, the restraint shown by the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces prevented these provocative incidents from turning into a wider confrontation, as again confirmed by the UNFICYP spokesman's statement in the following terms: "Had these events not been met by a conscientious response on the part of UNFICYP and restraint by the Forces on the Turkish Cypriot side, there could have been very serious consequences."

The manner in which the incidents were reported in the Greek Cypriot press the following day is also highly significant in terms of showing the public reaction and mentality prevalent on the Greek Cypriot side. Headlines such as "Message From Our Youth - War With Attila"; "Our Youths Have Demonstrated Courage and a Fighting Spirit - A Blow to Attila"; "Hand-to-Hand Clash With the Invader"; and "It Is Faster to Kyrenia by Motorcycle" are the epitome of chauvinism and reveal the hostile intentions that the Greek Cypriots in general harbour against their Turkish Cypriot neighbours. In fact, some of the slogans used by the demonstrators during these incidents leave no room for doubt as to what those intentions are: "Cyprus is Greek", "Attila out of Cyprus", "Turks are not our kin, they are our enemies", etc.

This latest demonstration of hostility on the part of the Greek Cypriot side is neither compatible with civilized, good-neighbourly relations nor with the establishment of trust between the two communities in Cyprus. It clearly renders Your Excellency's efforts in that direction all the more difficult and sets the stage for more serious incidents in the future with unforeseen consequences. I therefore hope that Your Excellency will do what you can to stop this harmful and dangerous trend on the Greek Cypriot side by impressing upon them that they alone will have to bear the responsibility for the consequences of their aggressive actions.

I shall be grateful if this letter is circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative of the
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus